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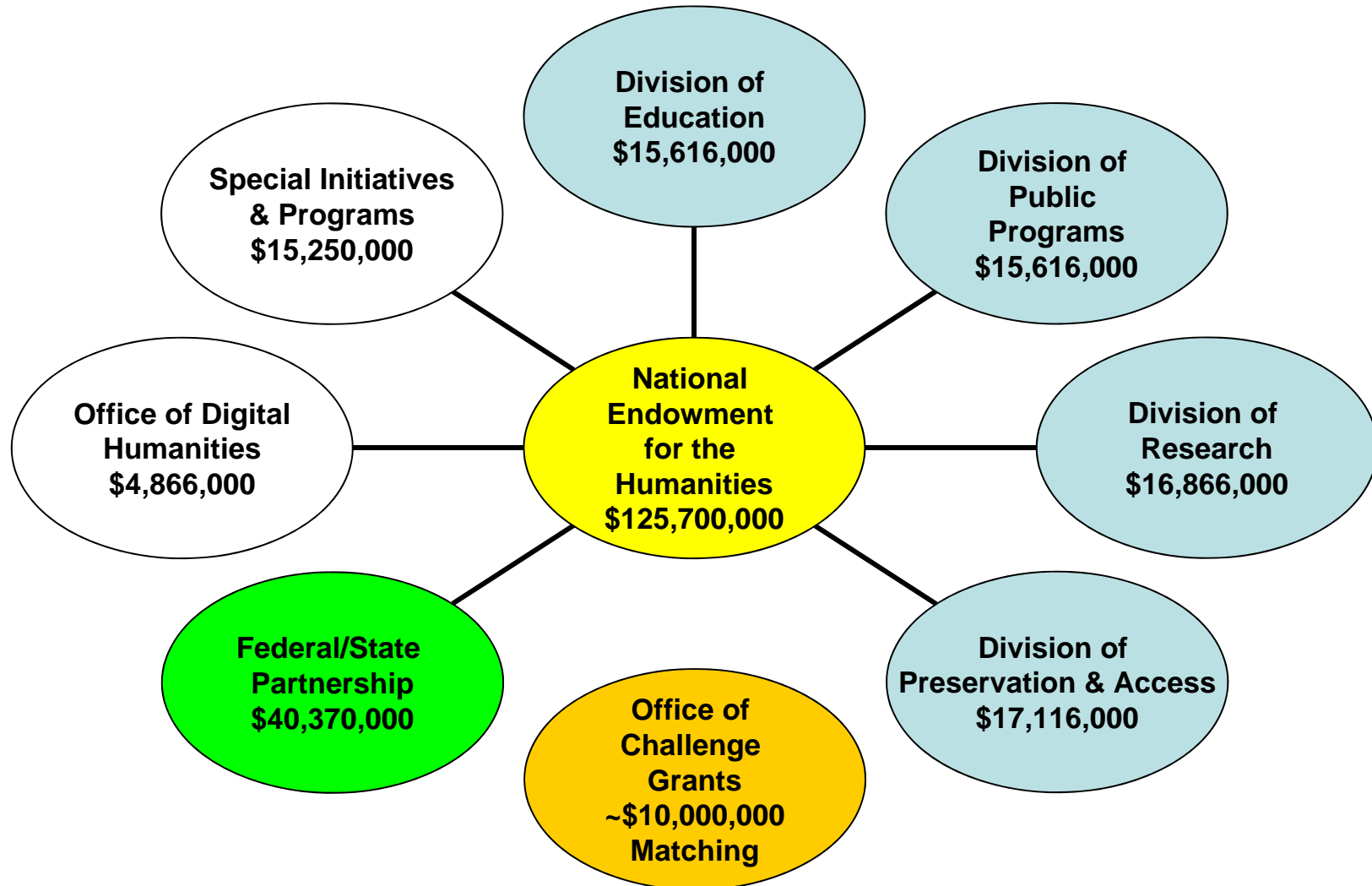
**Humanities**

# Shaping a Competitive NEH Fellowships Proposal

ICO Liaison Meeting  
February 22, 2011

Mark Silver  
Division of Research  
National Endowment for the Humanities

# NEH Budget for Grants – FY 2010



# FY 2011 & 2012

- Continuing Resolution: \$6 million cut?
- President's proposed 2012 budget: \$22 million cut (13%)
- Research (2012 proposed): \$2 million cut (12%)

# NEH Research Division

- Makes grants to support original research in the humanities that will contribute to scholarly knowledge or to the general public's understanding of the humanities.
- Programs support both institutions and individuals



# Selected Individual Grants & Deadlines

- Fellowships 5/3/11
- Summer Stipends 9/29/11  
(nomination required)
- Fellowships for Advanced Social Science Research on Japan 5/3/11
- Awards for Faculty\* 4/14/11  
(\*at historically Black, high Hispanic, and Tribal institutions)



# Selected Institutional Grants & Deadlines

- Collaborative Research 12/15/11
- Scholarly Editions  
& Translations 12/15/11

# Additional Opportunities

- NEH-LOC Kluge Fellowships
- NEH-NSF Documenting Endangered Languages Fellowships



# Representative Funding Rates (Division of Research, FY 2010)

## Fellowships

Received 1235 applications, funded 111 (9%)

## Summer Stipends

Received 1014 and funded 85 (8%)

## Advanced Social Science Research on Japan

Received 34 and funded 2 (6%)



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## NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

### Funded Projects Query Form

Welcome to the NEH Funded Projects Query Form. Using this form provides access to information about projects funded by NEH since 1980. Check one or more of the boxes and enter your search terms, then click the "Display results" button. You may search for key words found in the titles or descriptions of NEH-funded grants. We have also included options to help you narrow your search; for example, you can search for grants made by particular NEH programs, or for grants in particular humanities disciplines.

Please note that this form does not provide for comprehensive searches of NEH-funded projects; instead it provides only for key word searches. For example, a search using the word "Lincoln" will not locate every grant that NEH has made about Abraham Lincoln, and it may locate grants unrelated to the president -- e.g., grants having to do with Lincoln, Nebraska. Note also that the drop-down list of grant programs found below contains both current programs and programs that no longer exist. For further information and tips about using this form, consult the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Last update: 8/16/2010

<input type="checkbox"/> Grant number	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Project director (PD)	<input type="text"/> PD First name <input type="text"/> PD Last name
<input type="checkbox"/> Key words	<input type="text"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> ANY of these words <input type="radio"/> ALL of these words <input type="radio"/> This phrase
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization name	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="text" value="v"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Field of project	<input type="text" value="v"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant program	<input type="text" value="v"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Division	<input type="text" value="v"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Award date range	From <input type="text" value="v"/> To <input type="text" value="v"/>
<input type="button" value="Display results"/>	Sort results by... Award Year <input type="text" value="v"/> <input type="radio"/> Ascending <input checked="" type="radio"/> Descending
<input type="button" value="Clear form"/>	

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# Tips for Writing

- Grantsmanship is only a small part of success.
- Remember the audience.



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# Grant Evaluation Process

- Peer Review Panelists
- NEH staff
- National Council
- Chairman



# Tips for Writing

- Explicitly address the evaluation criteria.

# Fellowships Evaluation Criteria

- The intellectual significance of the proposed project, including its value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both.
- The quality or promise of quality of the applicant's work as an interpreter of the humanities.
- The quality of the conception, definition, organization, and description of the project and the applicant's clarity of expression.
- The feasibility of the proposed plan of work, including, when appropriate, the soundness of the dissemination and access plans.
- The likelihood that the applicant will complete the project.



# Unofficial Alliterative Mnemonic

- Project
- Person
- Proposal
- Plan
- Probability [of successful completion]

# Tips for Writing

- Remember the time constraints of the panelists.

# Tips for Writing

- Draft early and get comments.
- Discuss the application with the letter writers.
- Make the abstract clear, convincing, and somehow intriguing.

# Tips for Writing

- For a dissertation revision, take special care with the work plan.
- Think of all the parts of the application as forming a unified argument for funding you.
- Your bibliography is important.
- Think about the proportions.
- Think about the level of abstraction.
- There is no single formula for success.



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# Other General Tips

- Read applications for the home institution.
- Sign up to serve as a panelist.
- Re-apply.
- Ask for the comments.



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# Sample Application

“Commons Environmentalism: Forest History, Culture, and Politics in the Appalachian South”



# Contact Information

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